MADRAS WAR REVIEW

(FOR THE USE OF PROPAGANDA SUB-COMMITTEES)

Vol. II — Saturday, March 22, 1941 — Issue No. 12

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DIARY OF THE WAR

14th Mar.—The Royal Air Force made the heaviest attack of the war on Hamburg on the night of March 13–14. Shipping premises, dockyards and warehouses were hit. One supply ship was attacked off the Norwegian coast while another was sunk off the Frisian Islands by aerial torpedoes.

The Royal Air Force in the Middle East was active over Eritrea, Libya, Abyssinia and Albania.

The first batch of trained pilots of the Royal Netherlands East Indies Air Force has arrived in Britain.

The British forces have taken Asosa, forty miles south-east of Kurmuk, in the course of their advance in Abyssinia while Abyssinian Patriot Troops have reached the vicinity of Debra Markos, inflicting serious casualties on the Italians retreating from Burye.

The Greeks have taken a further 240 Italian prisoners, including many officers. It is confirmed that Mussolini is on the Albanian front, egging on his troops to greater efforts but all to no avail.

Thirteen enemy bombers were destroyed for certain in German air raids on Britain during the night of March 13–14. No fewer than eleven fell to Royal Air Force fighters, one was shot down by anti-aircraft fire and one was destroyed by other means (according to the Air Ministry's communique). Altogether 18 German planes were shot down over Britain in 48 hours.

Mr. de Valera, Prime Minister of Eire, speaking in the Dail, said that as the crisis of the war grew more acute, the danger to Ireland correspondingly increased. An unidentified aircraft flew over Dublin Bay and was fired on by the ground defences.

An indication of the unrest in German-occupied Holland is given in an announcement, by the Nazi Commander of the Netherlands, that 15 out of 18 persons convicted at the Hague on charges of sabotage and espionage were shot.

The United States House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate the Bill for $3,447,000,000 to help finance the Two-Ocean Navy. Six battle-cruisers of a new type are to be built.

Mr. Stimson, United States Secretary for War, announced that some defence material to be transferred from the United States, had already started for its destination.

It is announced in London that Sir Arthur Salter is to proceed at once to America to discuss shipping matters with the United States Administration, and that Mr. Roger Brand will lead a small mission to discuss with the United States authorities arrangements by which food-stuffs will be made available to Britain. Both are to be members of the British Supply Council in North America.

President Roosevelt indicated at a press conference that the United States Government intended to proceed cautiously over the question of supplying food to German-occupied countries. If America provided food, there should be the certainty that none could go outside the country that was being helped.

15th Mar.—A Belgrade message states that Yugoslavian Ministers will not journey to Berlin, that Yugoslavia will not sign the Tripartite Pact but will maintain strict neutrality and that all rumours of an ultimatum or Yugoslav capitulation thereto are baseless.

Planes of the Royal Air Force Bomber Command attacked the Ruhr region, particularly the great Hydrogeneration plant at Gelsenkirchen which was set ablaze. Dusseldorf and Rotterdam were also attacked. Coastal and Fighter Command aircraft also carried out extensive raiding operations along the European coast from Norway to Brest.

Clydeside was the main target of Nazi bombers and also a town in North-east England.

Admiral Sir Percy Noble has been appointed to direct the "Battle of the Atlantic" and keep the sea lanes to Britain open for the flow of vital supplies of food, weapons and war material from America.

General Ugo Cavallero, Italian Commander-in-Chief in Albania, is reported to be in disgrace and to have resigned. The Italian offensive on the northern front collapsed before the determined resistance of the Greeks.

Lord Halifax, British Ambassador in Washington, conferred with Mr. Cordel Hull, United States Secretary of State, presumably on the question of relaxing the British blockade to admit food for France.

The United States House of Representatives' Sub-Committee has approved of the $7,000,000,000 appropriation asked for by President Roosevelt.

Mr. Averell Harriman, President Roosevelt's representative to co-ordinate arrangements for United States' aid to Britain, has arrived in Bristol.

General Smuts, the South African Premier, in the course of a national broadcast, said: "Hitler has suffered his most spectacular defeat at the hands of America and behind his open war with the British Commonwealth lies now an undeclared but a no less real and grim war with the United States. To succeed, Hitler must win in both, and he cannot."

All the 720 inhabitants of Vatican City, including His Holiness the Pope and 23 Cardinals, have now been given ration-cards. His Holiness is reported to have insisted on being placed on the same ration as everyone else in Vatican City.

16th Mar.—Addressing the White House Correspondents' Association in a speech broadcast throughout the world, President Roosevelt said that the United States was committed to unqualified, immediate, all-out aid for Britain, Greece, China and all the Governments whose homelands were temporarily occupied by the aggressors. He said that there could be no compromise with the Nazis whose "New Order" was neither new nor order. The British who "are fighting in the front line of civilization" would be given the utmost and speedy help.

Hitler, speaking in Berlin, made no reference to Mr. Roosevelt's address. He said that German forces were ready for a fresh assault but he added that Germany must bear heavier sacrifices in the War than ever before.

The Greeks, it is reported, have taken over 3,000 prisoners in vigorous counter-attacks, following Mussolini's abortive spring offensive. The Royal Air Force raided Berat aerodrome and set on fire a petrol dump.

British troops in Abyssinia have penetrated far on the road to Jijiga and along the Srada-Rele road from Mogadishu to Addis Ababa *via* Neghelli.

London was the main target of Nazi airmen but the attacks were generally on a small scale.

The Royal Air Force made determined attacks on Dusseldorf and the submarine base of L'orient.

It is reported that two American cruisers and four destroyers have arrived in Auckland (New Zealand) on a training cruise.

The British submarine *Snapper* is overdue and must be considered lost (announces the Admiralty).

Men between 41 and 45 and women of 20 and 21 are to register for work of national importance (says a London message). "If we are to beat Hitler" declared Mr. Ernest Bevin, Minister of Labour, "We must have every citizen rendering service in the right place."

Sir Samuel Hoare, British Ambassador to Spain, conferred at Lisbon with Col. Donovan (President Roosevelt's Special Envoy to Europe) on the question of supplies to Spain and Portugal and unoccupied France.

17th Mar.—A violent attack on President Roosevelt was made by the official Italian News Agency, which accused the President of lying when he affirmed that the supreme war aim of the Totalitarian States was the destruction of elective governments. The Japanese press also exhibited anger but the President's speech was hailed by British newspapers as a historic utterance, giving pledges of whole-hearted support to the nations opposing the Axis which would ensure victory for the Democracies. The speech was also enthusiastically received by the majority of the newspapers throughout the United States. An increasingly belligerent tone towards the Axis was manifest and many newspapers openly suggested that America was now at war and was playing a positive role by encouraging raids on Germany and by stiffening the Balkan resistance to the Axis.

Mr. Matsuoka, the Japanese Foreign Minister, has arrived at the Russian frontier station of Otpor, on his way to Berlin, which he expected to reach on April 1.

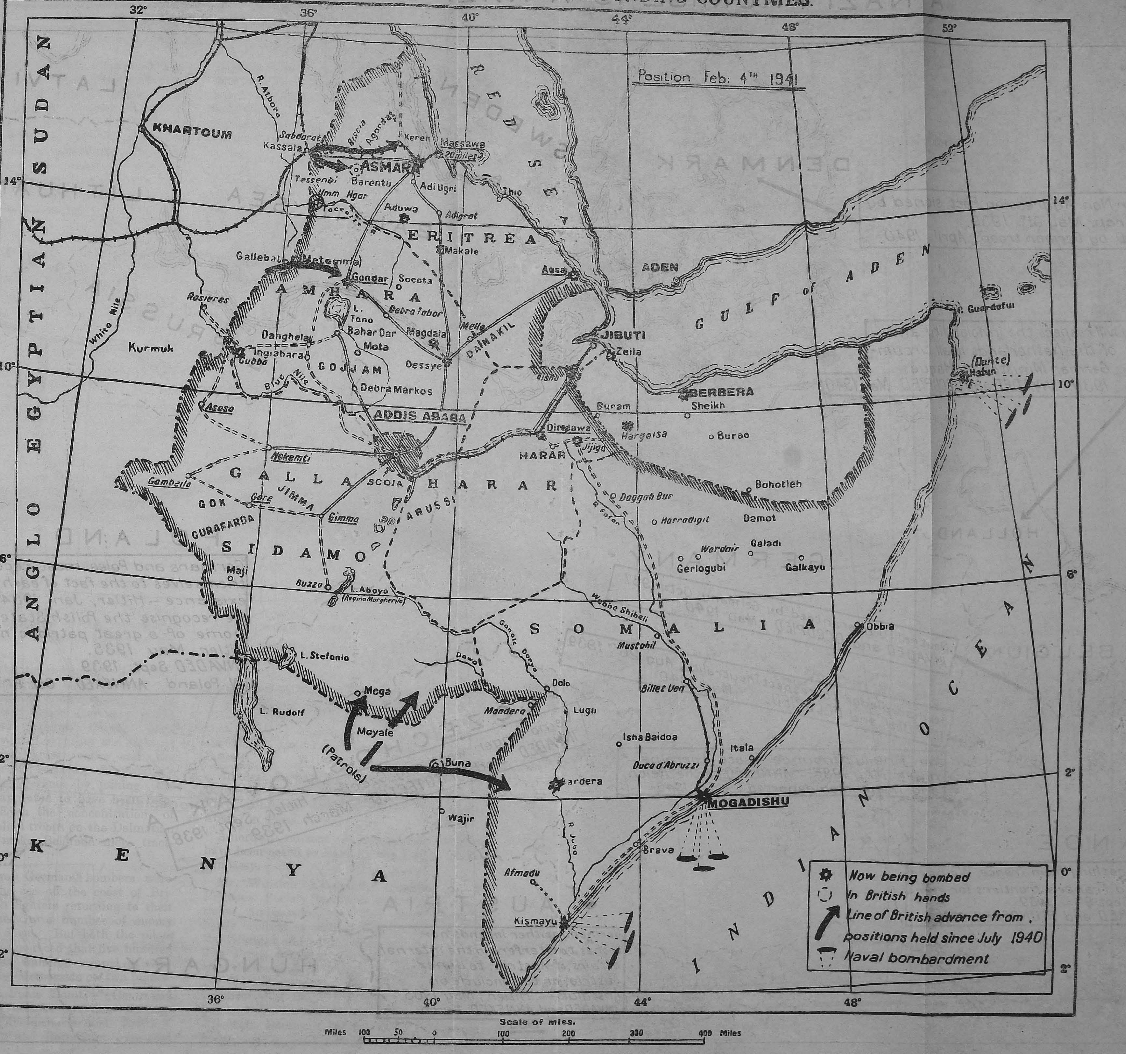
The Tokyo paper *Hochi Shimbun* advocated the bombing of "Chungking's military establishments" which, it alleged, had been transferred to Burma. The paper said that the Longween Aviation Factory, formerly in Yunnan, had moved to Burma while other assembly plants had been established "in the British colony" from which American planes, landed in Rangoon, were being flown by Chinese pilots.

"Licking their wounds" after their unsuccessful seven-day offensive on the central battle-front in Albania, the Italians refrained from any major attacks. The Italian High Command appeared to be enraged at the failure of their offensive despite the employment of 120,000 men. The loss of Italian effectives engaged was often as high as forty per cent.

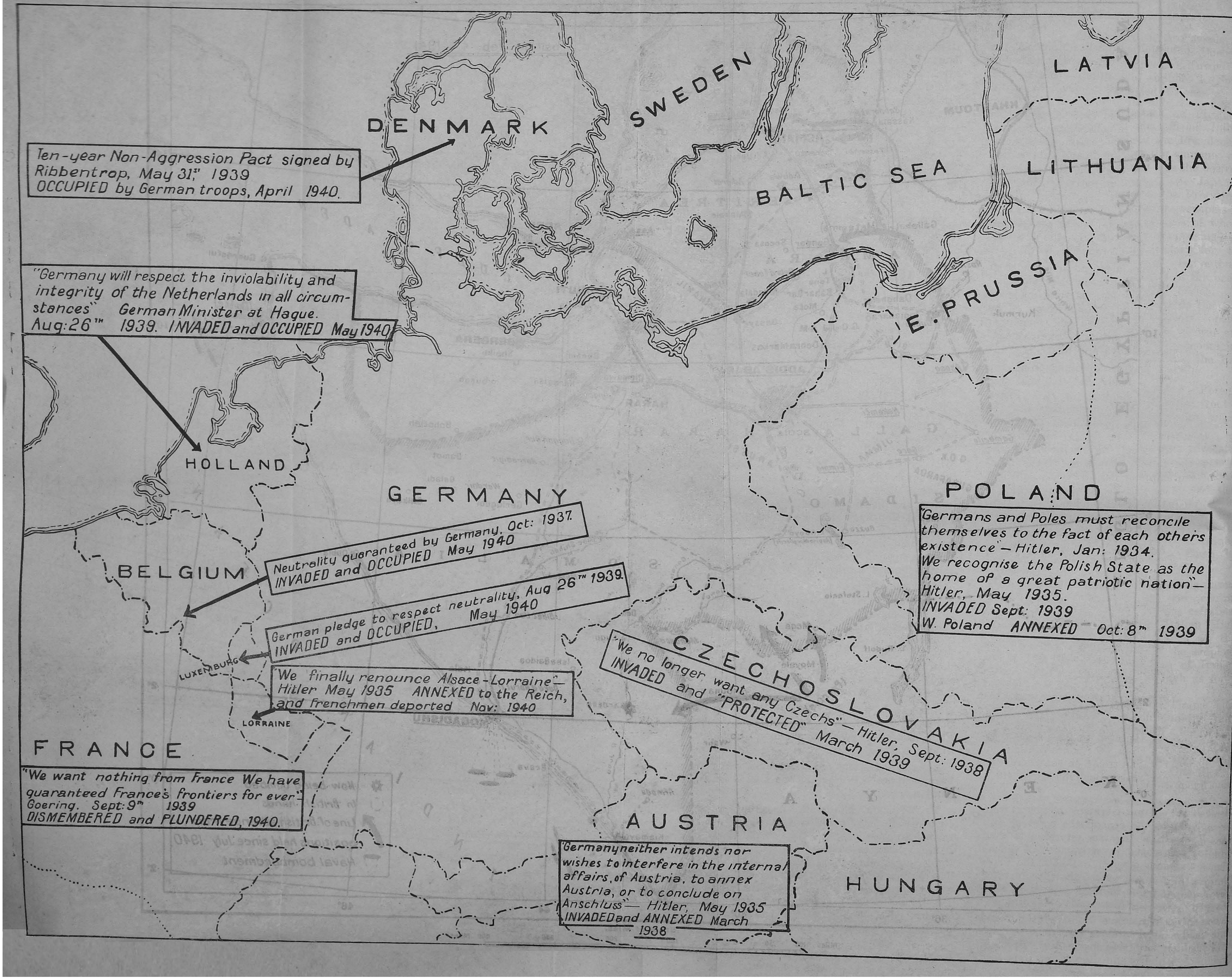
Successful British air raids on Tirana and Valona are announced in a communique from the headquarters of the British forces in Greece. A British bomber, returning from an operational flight, shot down a large enemy seaplane into the sea near Corfu. One British aircraft was missing from all these operations.

Bristol was attacked by German aircraft at night in a raid lasting some hours. Considerable damage was caused by high explosive bombs and fires but all fires were under control early this morning. There were a number of casualties, including some people killed. Bombs were also dropped in a number of other areas but the total damage was small and very few casualties were caused. One enemy aircraft was destroyed. A newspaper office suffered severely from a blast but nevertheless the newspaper was published.

ITALIAN EAST AFRICA & SURROUNDING COUNTRIES.



A NAZI PROMISE IS A NAZI THREAT



Fifteen thousand French Mohammedan Legionaries paraded at Oran, Algeria, before General Weygand and Admiral Abrial and took the oath of loyalty. General Weygand declared that Marshal Petain had given the Legion a special place in national policy so that it might be able to collaborate with him.

The British forces have recaptured Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland in the Red Sea. The town had been in Italian hands since soon after the Italian entry into the war. Further advances have been made in the Keren area in Eritrea. The Italian discomfiture extends to Abyssinia, where the general advance of the Imperial and the Patriot forces continues in all sectors.

Heavy attacks were made on aerodromes at Castel Benito and Makina in Tripolitania. In Eritrea, very heavy attacks were made on enemy positions in and around Keren. The Royal Air Force also bombed and machine-gunned a motor transport and troop concentrations and also railways and roads.

It is reported that a tightening-up in the shipping position is likely and the final step in the process will be taken by the Prime Minister himself. Many members of the Commons favour the appointment of a man of the Beaverbrook type to the Ministry of Shipping. Others call for somebody who combines the fullest knowledge of the intricacies of the shipping industry with sufficient personality to see that the Admiralty, which is now responsible for merchantship construction, does full justice to merchant shipping needs.

The German Consulate was reopened at Tangier, reoccupying the building which was the German Consulate before 1914. This had been the official residence of the representative of the Sultan of Morocco, known as the Mendoub.

There were authentic indications that German plans had met with some setback in Yugoslavia and the first consequences were to slow down whatever action Germany might have contemplated against Greece. Germany's primary aim of securing the right of transit through the Vardar valley and the second alternative of securing Yugoslavia's benevolent non-belligerence by joining the Axis Pact, both appeared to have been resolutely resisted. Even the concentration of sixty thousand Italian troops on the Dalmatian frontier did not make Belgrade more tractable.

18th Mar.— Two German bombers were shot down into the sea off the coast of Britain. Two British fighters returning to their bases were attacked by a number of enemy fighters and shot down. But both the pilots are safe. It was announced that five hundred were killed and five hundred injured in German air raids on the Merseyside on two nights.

The Royal Air Force Bomber Command made fairly heavy attacks on the German naval bases at Wilhelmshaven and Bremen. Emden, Oldenburg and Rotterdam were also attacked. An enemy fighter was shot down in flames. Coastal Command planes of the Royal Air Force torpedoed and sank a heavily-laden German supply vessel (5,000 tons) off the Frisian coast. No British aircraft was lost in all these operations.

The Royal Air Force also blasted Tripoli harbour. The Royal Air Force took a hand in the operations in the Keren area in Eritrea and it was revealed that armoured cars belonging to the Air Force played a leading part in the fighting in British Somaliland.

Italian airmen continued the practice of bombing the open town of Larissa which had already suffered heavy damage in the recent earthquake. Italian offensive in the northern sector in Albania ended in severe losses to themselves. Terrific fighting raged round Tepelini both day and night and British and Greek air forces in their turn bombed the Italians' bases at Berat and Elbasan.

German-Greek relations are reported to be reaching towards a crisis.

It is reported that President Ineunu has sent his reply to the personal message from Hitler.

A declaration of Yugoslavia's strict neutrality was made in *Samouprava* the organ of the Yugoslav Radical Union. The British Minister in Belgrade had an interview with the Yugoslav Premier. A Belgrade message to the *New York Times* stated that Yugoslav leaders are insisting that for purposes of the projected Non-Aggression Pact, Salonika must be considered equivalent to Yugoslav territory and should not be occupied by Germany. Such occupation would endanger Yugoslavia's independence and integrity.

A French proposal for two French ships to be allowed to take food and grain to unoccupied France was considered by the United States Government. The State Department at Washington emphasized that the United States Government must assure themselves that the final consumption of the food sent should take place within the area of unoccupied France.

Admiral Darlan, Vichy's Vice-Premier, and Comte de Brinon, Vichy's representative in Paris, conferred with the German Emissary, Abetz, in Paris.

American citizens in unoccupied France have been asked to leave by the United States Embassy.

Mr. Winston Churchill, speaking at a Pilgrims' Society luncheon to the new American Ambassador, revealed that German battle cruisers as well as U-boats had crossed the Atlantic and sunk ships not in convoy. The Prime Minister also announced the certain destruction of three German U-boats. He did not minimize the gravity and vital importance of the "Battle of the Atlantic," but said: "We are not alone." He thanked President Roosevelt for his pledge of speedy help.

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Aircraft production stated in the House of Commons that more aircraft, both bombers and fighters, were produced in Britain during the short month of February than during any previous month during the war.

The United States House of Representatives began a debate on the seven billion dollars (aid to Britain) appropriation. The House faced a tersely worded warning from the Appropriations Sub-Committee that this huge sum must be quickly approved or the reputation of the United States among the nations would suffer.

The first of twenty-two giant Boeing four-engined, long-range bombers, left Dayton (Ohio) to join the Royal Air Force. The bombers would leave at the rate of one per day.

The Nazis admit "severe damage" to their crack liner Bremen as the result of a fire.

19th Mar.—Mr. Anthony Eden, Britain's Foreign Secretary, met M. Sarajoglu, Turkey's Foreign Minister, in the Island of Cyprus for the second time in a fortnight and had a "highly satisfactory" talk on the situation in the Balkans and in the Near East.

The British Imperial Forces continued their triumphal march in Abyssinia. Jig Jiga has been captured and Abyssinian Patriot Forces have been putting on pressure against Debra Marcos. The Royal Air Force bombed and machine-gunned Italian troop concentrations round Keren.

The Royal Air Force also carried out a most successful raid on Durazzo and north of Tepelini on the Albanian Front. The Greeks repulsed repeated Italian local attacks.

The Royal Air Force bombed at night the German bases at Wilhelmshaven and Kiel, Rotterdam petrol harbour, the docks at Emden and aerodromes in Holland. German shipping off the Dutch coast was bombed and machine-gunned during the day.

London had its longest alert of the year so far during the night but the casualties and damage were remarkably light. In conformity with their evident policy of concentrating on British ports, the German air raiders reserved their onslaught for Hull, causing widespread damage to property. But fire-watchers, firemen, warders and police dealt effectively with the fires started by incendiary bombs.

The famous German liner Bremen of over 51,000 tons has been totally destroyed by fire.

Admiral Darlan, Vichy's Vice-Premier returned to Vichy after his talk in Paris with the German Emissary.

Auckland (New Zealand) accorded a civic welcome to the American Naval Squadron on a training cruise in the Far East.

The British Government have formally agreed to provide credits for financing the Free French War effort.

20th Mar.—Belgrade continues to maintain a firm front against Nazi intrigues and Yugoslav mobilization goes on.

Greek advance units entered Tepelini, the last town held by the Italians on the road to Valona. In the Central sector in Albania, the Greeks took possession of enemy positions at heights of 4,500 feet. An Italian offensive in the Northern sector has also been repulsed with heavy losses. An Italian warship was among the ships sunk or damaged in a series of attacks, which the British Fleet Air Arm made against Valona and Durazzo.

Intense Royal Air Force activity continues in Eritrea, particularly in the Keren sector and in Tripolitania. British bombers unloaded a stick of bombs on concentrations of shipping in Tripoli harbour. The British forces are making steady progress in Abyssinia. It was learned in London that any request by the Italians for the safe conduct of the two hundred thousand Italian non-combatants in Abyssinia could only form part of a general capitulation.

The Royal Air Force (Bomber Command) attacked the industrial quarters in Cologne, oil storage tanks at Rotterdam and three aerodromes in the Netherlands. Coastal Command aircraft attacked the submarine base at L'orient. German authorities have ordered the evacuation of children from large industrial centres in Western Germany and from Berlin district which are liable to air attacks.

The submarine *Triumph* sank two deeply-laden Italian supply ships, each about 2,500 tons; the submarine *Unique* torpedoed a fully-laden Italian supply ship of 3,000 tons, and the submarine *Utmost* attacked another convoy of two deeply-laden Italian transports of about 6,000 and 4,000 tons, which were crowded with troops.

The United States Senate has approved the £862 million Bill to help finance America's Two-ocean Navy.

Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador, continued his discussions with the State Department in Washington on the question of food for France.

There was slight activity over Britain by enemy aircraft during daylight. Bombs were dropped on a Kent coast town where houses were damaged and a small number of casualties occurred. The Admiralty records that a German dive-bomber destroyed the drifter Young Mun and the Yacht Chico.

A great welcome was accorded to the United States Naval Squadron at Sydney by the Government and people of Australia.

WAR IN THE AIR

The following are the details of the British raids from home bases on enemy territory in Europe, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 11th March 1941:—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during British patrol activity (not specifically mentioned) over enemy and enemy-controlled coastal waters.

Date.	Targets.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
March 5 Wednesday.	R.A.F. day fighter sweep over N. France. R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter raid on invasion base at Boulogne.	3	1
March 6, Thursday.	No reports	..	..
March 7, Friday.	R.A.F. day bomber raids on invasion base at Den Helder; aerodromes at Ockenberg; shipping off Dutch coast (1 supply ship sunk).	Nil.	..
March 8, Saturday.	No reports	..	..
March 9, Sunday.	No reports	..	..
March 10, Monday.	R.A.F. day bomber-and-fighter sweeps over N. France. R.A.F. night fighter raids on aerodromes in N. France. R.A.F. night bomber raids on Cologne (Hohenzollern Bridge approaches, inland port, industrial objectives); naval bases at Brest and Cherbourg; Channel invasion bases, particularly Boulogne.	3	3
March 11, Tuesday.	R.A.F. day bomber raid on oil-stores at Rotterdam; factory near Utrecht; other objectives in Holland. R.A.F. night bomber raid on naval bases at Kiel and Bremerhaven; two aerodromes in N. W. Germany. R.A.F. night fighter attacks on aerodromes in N. France.	Nil.	2

The following are the figures of losses of aircraft due to enemy air raids on Britain, ascertained by competent authorities for the week ending 11th March 1941 :—

Figures of aircraft losses include those incurred during enemy raids (not specifically mentioned) on Allied shipping in N. W. European waters.

Date.	British losses.	Enemy losses.
March 5	Nil.	1
March 6	Nil.	1
March 7	Nil.	2
March 8	Nil.	3
March 9	Nil.	..
March 10	Nil.	8
March 11	Nil.	1

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TALKING POINTS

THE WEEK

The news of the week is, of course, the historic speech which President Roosevelt made on Saturday last, an analysis of which appears elsewhere. Mr. Churchill, in his speech at a Pilgrim's Luncheon in London spoke of the sense of encouragement and fortification in the resolve which had come to England by those " stirring, august and fateful Presidential words." He described the President's acts and words as a draught of life telling Great Britain that she is no longer alone. In addition to the American destroyers, he pointed out, " our flotillas are growing in number. Our air power over the island and seas is growing fast. We are hitting back with increasing effect." Addressing Mr. Winant, the new American Ambassador, he said that he had come " at the grand turning point in world's history " and Mr. Winant replied by saying that Great Britain and America would work to " help one another to build a new world happier than the last."

Of equal importance is the capture by British forces of Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland. Two ships convoyed by warships landed troops, Indian, British and Somali and the story is told of how four men in a boat bore the great responsibility of commencing the operations. The capture of Berbera means the beginning of the end of the Italian occupation of British Somaliland. Jijiga, in Eastern Abyssinia, has also been taken. Diredawa on the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, is only sixty miles from Jijiga which is within fifty miles of Harrar, the second largest town in Abyssinia. The heart of the Italian East African Empire is being surely and quickly approached by Imperial Forces.

To all appearances Hitler appears to have commenced his Spring campaign, so far, at any rate, as the " Battle of the Atlantic " is concerned. Shipping losses are more than normal and measures are being taken to combat this undoubtedly serious menace. In regard to invasion, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Minister for Home Security, has urged the people of England to study carefully the leaflet issued by his Ministry in regard to precautions that they should take in case of an invasion. These precautions are based on the assumption that as there can be no Nazi victory unless it was won in the West, Hitler will make this attempt. That is why Mr. Morrison exhorted his people : " Stand firm. Carry on. Beat the invader."

But Hitler's plans in other directions are not bearing fruit. Yugoslavia is still firm. Greece is ready to meet Hitler's mechanized army. Advanced Greek troops have entered Tepelini. Turkey is steadfast. Mr. Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary, flew to Cyprus on Tuesday last to meet M. Sarajoglu, Turkish Foreign Minister, to review the events which have happened in the fortnight since their last meeting. The meeting was highly satisfactory.

Mr. Churchill, in the speech which he made on Tuesday, referred to the " Battle of the Atlantic," which, he said, must be won in a decisive manner. " German U-boats and battle cruisers have crossed the Atlantic," he said, " and sunk some of our ships not sailing in convoy." He also announced that three German U-boats had been recently destroyed. That Great Britain is taking every possible measure to win the " Battle of the Atlantic " is obvious and Admiral Sir Percy Noble has been appointed to direct the operations of this battle.

THE LEASE AND LEND BILL

The Rome Radio, like Lord Haw Haw, is indignant about the passing of the Aid to Britain Act—no wonder, because that great historic Act of the Congress means America's determination to put an end to Hitler and Nazism once and for all. If one considers the remarkable fact that 89 out of 95 Senators voted either for the Bill as it stood or the Republican Senator Taft's substitute proposal of a straight two billion dollar loan to Britain, it will become obvious that the real issue in the last few months has been not whether America should help Great Britain, but what the methods are which should be followed to ensure British victory. It is significant that the passing of the Bill will lead to greater co-operation than now and even isolationist newspapers are now saying that American disunity has disappeared.

It is well to remember that the amendments which have been rejected show the consensus of American opinion in favour of standing by Great Britain. The prohibition of American troops being used for fighting outside the Western hemisphere without the consent of Congress and the prohibition of convoy by

American armed forces of war material shipped from America were, it will be remembered, rejected. Of course, the President should obtain Congressional consent for money spent on armaments which are to be transferred to other countries and he should, moreover, specify the countries concerned and the amounts allotted to each of them, but that will not interfere with the flow of ships, planes, food and munitions to the Democracies.

The Act, in the first place, authorizes the President to transfer to Britain armaments of the United States Armed forces existing or already ordered, to the extent of 1,300,000 dollars or £325,000,000. In other words, armaments of this value already sanctioned by Congress and paid for by America may be handed over at the President's discretion. In the second place, the Act authorizes the Congress to vote money for a new class of expenditure—that is, war materials to be lent and leased to friendly powers. This constitutes really the acceptance of the principle of unlimited aid.

The House of Representatives is now considering the request of the President for an appropriation of 7 billion dollars. As finance is mostly within the province of this House, the Senate is expected to pass the appropriation as soon as it is placed before it. The appropriation proposed includes an item of £50,000,000 for the repair of the defence articles of any country whose defence is considered vital to the United States by the President. This clearly means that British warships can hereafter be repaired in American ports.

THE BALKANS.

Mr. Eden's mission to the Near East—he has just had a meeting with the Turkish Foreign Minister in the island of Cyprus—and President Roosevelt's firm determination to implement the provisions of the Lease-Lend Act with the maximum speed are producing striking results in the Balkans. Yugoslavia, which is isolated, has so far resisted Nazi blandishments and shown herself reluctant to walk into the German parlour. At the beginning of the week, the Nazis confidently announced that the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia would visit Berlin and sign away their country's independence. It was even rumoured that the special military plane sent by Wilhelmstrasse to fetch them had arrived in Belgrade on schedule. But the Yugoslav Ministers did not make the trip. While the British Ambassador, Sir Ronald Campbell, has had a long interview with the Yugoslav Premier, the German Minister's visits to the Foreign Office at Belgrade do not seem to have produced the desired results yet. It appears that the Yugoslavs are not willing to allow a German occupation of Salonika, Greece's second greatest port and her most important strategic centre, since it would endanger Yugoslav independence and integrity. The immense strength of the forces that Germany can throw into the battle must be reckoned with in any forecast of Balkan developments, but it is evident that Yugoslavia is heartened by the firm attitude of Turkey, who apparently treats any assurances contained in Hitler's recent note with suspicion and continues to adopt an attitude of preparedness, and the undaunted demeanour of the Greeks in the face of the new menace on their flank. Greece's resources have had to endure heavy strain but she has not only beaten off the counter-attacks launched by the Italians this week in Albania under the immediate inspiration of Mussolini himself but gone on to capture Tepelini, key town on the road to Valona. Soviet Russia's first overt rebuke to Bulgaria and Germany, unmistakably fixing on the latter the responsibility for trying to spread the war in the Balkans, has probably stiffened Yugoslavia's resistance to the Axis. And Mr. Antony Eden and Sir John Dill have presumably let her statesmen understand what Britain will do to help her in the event of German aggression. While Berlin and Rome have been very free with plans, threats and cajoleries, the British Government appear to have every intention of keeping the enemy guessing as to the plans agreed upon with their Allies. A report has also appeared, so far unconfirmed, that Russia has assured Turkey that she would not interfere if Turkey has to enter into hostilities with Germany and that she has asked Yugoslavia not to sign the Axis Tripartite Pact and promised her military help in case she is attacked for not acceding to the demands of the Nazis.

BRITISH CAPTURE BERBERA.

The Union Jack again flies over Berbera, the capital of British Somaliland, thus symbolizing the end of Italy's shortlived occupation. When, with the collapse of France, Italy entered the war against the Allies, the strategic position in Africa and the Near East was vitally affected. Mussolini thought it was a splendid opportunity to capture British Somaliland, his forces being vastly superior in numbers to the little police force that was all that Britain could spare at the moment. The British forces withdrew and Gayda, Mussolini's barking-dog, shouted "Britain is finished. Nothing can save her now." The Rome Radio proclaimed: "The collapse of the British Empire is now inevitable. The Red Sea has been closed to the Royal Navy." For some time, Britain had to be content with occasional naval raids on the Somali coast. And it was not till General Wavell launched his lightning campaign in Libya and scored the most spectacular victory of the war against Marshal Graziani that Britain could find an opportunity to re-occupy her lost Somali territory. After effective operations by the Navy and the Air Force, British troops landed in Berbera and took possession on Sunday, the 16th March. These troops were convoyed the previous night by warships,

(*Continued on Page* 9)

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S GREAT SPEECH

STERN WARNING TO DICTATORS

On Saturday evening last Mr. Roosevelt, President of the United States, addressing the White House Correspondents' Association made a striking speech, containing a stern warning to Dictators and expressing the determination of the United States of America to help Great Britain, Greece and China against aggression. It is certainly the most important event that has happened after the downfall of France in June 1940. It has been made clear by this historic utterance—

(1) that America will play a great part in resistance to aggression,

(2) that the cause of freedom in the whole world is the cause which the United States has at heart,

(3) that the 130 millions of people of America are behind President Roosevelt in his noble endeavour to help the Democracies, and

(4) that the final issue of the war cannot hereafter be in doubt.

The speech, which will rank very high among the documents relating to the war, envisages the great part which America will play in world reconstruction. "Our country," said President Roosevelt, "is going to play its full part and when the Dictatorships disintegrate—and pray God that it will be sooner than any of us now dares to hope—our country must continue to play its great part in world reconstruction." It will hearten freedom-loving people throughout the world to know that, after the war, America will take a most active part in determining the new world order. President Roosevelt was in no doubt about the right of small nations to live in security and in the enjoyment of their liberty, freedom and independence. He said: "We believe that any nationality, no matter how small, has the inherent right to its own nationhood."

ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES.

As regards the part that America will play as a result of the Congress adopting the Lease and Lend Bill, President Roosevelt said:

(1) "In the last World War, the Germans were informed by their representatives in the United States that the latter was in a state of disunity. But let not the Dictators of Europe and Asia doubt our unity now. Before the present war broke out, I was more worried about the future than most people. The record shows that I was not worried enough."

(2) "The American people are writing new history to-day. The big news of this week is that the world has been told that we, as a united nation, realize the danger which confronts us, and to meet that danger, our Democracy has gone into action."

(3) "It (the new Act) is proclaimed, not with the voice of any one man, but with the voice of one hundred and thirty millions. It is binding on all of us and the world is no longer left in doubt."

(4) The President warned people of all classes to be prepared to make sacrifices and foreshadowed lower profits, higher taxes and longer hours. The United States was dedicated to a constantly increasing tempo of production, greater than ever known before.

(5) "There are almost a million and a half United States citizens in the armed forces to-day, and no better men ever served under Washington, Paul Jones, Grant, Lee or Pershing. The United States' determination must not be obstructed by unnecessary strikes, short-sighted management, sabotage or war profiteering. Americans recognize the extreme seriousness of the present situation. That is why they demanded and got a policy of unqualified, immediate, all-out aid for Britain, Greece, China and all the Governments whose homelands are temporarily occupied by the aggressors."

(6) "Never in all our history have Americans faced a job so well worth while. May it be said of us in the days to come that our children and our children's children will rise up and call us blessed."

WARNING TO DICTATORS.

President Roosevelt did not mince words in describing the great danger to the world arising from the doings of Dictators. He said:

(1) "We know that although Prussian autocracy was bad enough, Nazism is far worse. The Nazi forces are not seeking mere modifications in colonial maps or minor European boundaries. They openly seek the destruction of all elective systems of Government in every continent, including our own. They seek to establish systems of Government on the regimentation of all human beings by a handful of individual rulers, who seize power by force."

(2) "These men and their hypnotized followers call this a New Order. But it is not new and it is not order. Humanity will never permanently accept a system imposed by conquest and based on slavery. The nations of Europe and the United States did not previously appreciate that these modern tyrants find it necessary to eliminate all Democracies: but we do now."

(3) The decision (of Congress) is the end of any attempt at appeasement in our land, the end of urging us to get along with the Dictators, the end of compromise with tyranny and the forces of oppression."

(4) "We believe that the rallying cry of the Dictators and their boasting about the 'Master Race' will prove to be pure stuff and nonsense. There has never been, and never will be any race of people fit to serve as masters over their fellow-men. The world has no use for any nation which, because of its size and military might, asserts its right to goosestep to world power over other nations and other races."

DEMOCRACIES

As regards the future of Democracies, President Roosevelt said :

(1) " The process of elimination of European nations proceeded by plan through 1939 and 1940 until the schedule was shot to pieces by the unbeatable defenders of Britain. The enemies of Democracy now know that Democracy can still remain Democracy and reach conclusions and arm itself adequately for defence."

(2) " The light of Democracy must be kept burning. Millions in Britain and elsewhere are bravely shielding the great flame of Democracy from the black-out of barbarism. It is not enough for us merely to trim the wick and polish the glass. We must provide in ever increasing amounts to keep the flame alight. If Democracy failed, freedom of speech, expression and worship, freedom from want and fear, would become forbidden things. That is true of England, Greece, China and the United States today."

GREAT BRITAIN

The President was in no doubt as regards the noble and valiant resistance to aggression put up by Great Britain, thanks to the reports made to him by his emissaries and Mr. Wendell Willkie. Upon this point he said :

(1) " The British are stronger than ever in their magnificent morale, which has enabled them to endure all the dark days and shattered nights of the past ten months. They have the full support and help of Canada, the other Dominions and the rest of their Empire and the non-British people throughout the world who still think in terms of great freedoms. The British people are braced for invasion whenever the attempt may come—tomorrow, next week, next month."

(2) " In this historic crisis, Britain is blessed with a brilliant and great leader, Mr. Winston Churchill, but nobody knows better than Mr. Churchill himself that it is not alone his stirring words and valiant deeds that give the British their superb morale. The essence of that morale is in the masses of plain people, who are completely clear about one essential fact—they would rather die as free men than live as slaves. These plain people, civilians as well as soldiers, sailors, and airmen, are fighting in the front line of civilization. They are holding that line with a fortitude which will for ever be the pride and inspiration of all free men of every continent."

AMERICAN HELP

Finally, the world has been left in no doubt about the total help in a total war which America is going to render as a result of the Aid to Britain Act. President Roosevelt pointed out :—

(1) " We believe firmly that when our production and output are at full swing, the Democracies of the world will be able to prove that Dictatorships cannot win. Every plane and other instrument of war, old and new, which we can spare, we will send overseas. That is commonsense strategy ".

(2) The President called on industry to move its products from the assembly lines to the battle lines of the Democracies now. ' We have not and never will have the false unity of a people brow-beaten by threats and misled by propaganda. Today, at least, ours is not a partial effort. It is a total effort."

(3) The President disclosed that many articles which he had approved immediately after signing the Lease and Lend Bill were already on their way. " Here, in Washington, we are thinking in terms of speed and speed now. I hope that this watchword will find its way into every home of the nation."

(4) " The British and their Grecian Allies need ships, planes and food. From America they will get ships, planes and food. They need tanks, guns, ammunition and supplies of all kinds. From America they will get them. China likewise expresses a magnificent will. China through Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek asks for our help. She shall have our help."

TALKING POINTS

(*Continued from Page* 7)

furnishing one more proof that, while the Mediterranean is not Italy's *mare nostrum* but her nightmare sea, the Royal Navy continues to rule the seas.

With the re-capture of Berbera, another threat to Addis Ababa, the heart of what remains of Italy's East African Empire, is developing fast. British troops are now steadily closing in on the Abyssinian capital from no fewer than thirteen points. With the fall of Yavello and Jijiga to the British, Italian bases at Harrar and Diredawa are also threatened. Apart from the French-controlled line to Djibouti, Italy's only remaining channel to the sea from Abyssinia is the route *via* Asmara and Massawa.

The Italians are putting up stern resistance at Keren, the key-town whose inevitable fall will decide the fate of Italian Eritrea and perhaps the whole of Italy's African Empire. With Keren is immediately linked Asmara, the Italians' chief military base. In addition to their determination to make a stand, a factor to be reckoned with is the geographical position of Keren, where the western face of a great escarpment forms an immensely strong defensive position. General Wavell's strategy is, therefore, to consolidate his troops—which include Indians—round the town, cut off Italian supplies from the sea and thus ensure the minimum loss to himself in the final assault on the town. Most important, therefore, is the advance of the British column moving from the north to Keren, parallel to the coast, and promising any moment to turn the western escarpment and threaten the flank of the Italians. Latest despatches indicate that the Italian troops in Keren are in a desperate position. Italian losses in embittered counter-attacks against the beleaguring British Imperial Army are becoming increasingly heavy.

CAMPAIGN IN NORTH AND EAST AFRICA

STORY OF BRITISH SUCCESSES

Egypt, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and India have now been finally saved from all fear of Italian invasion.

How has this been done?

When Mr. Anthony Eden visited Egypt in November 1940 Mr. Churchill gave a hint through the Foreign Secretary to General Wavell that he might ask—for reinforcements. General Wavell asked and he was given.

Reinforcements of all kinds then poured into Egypt from the east and from the west—tanks, guns, munitions of all kinds and above all trained soldiers from Australia and New Zealand, from England and from India.

The campaign of liberating Egypt and smashing the Italian African Empire began on December 7th and the first stage of it ended exactly two months later with the result that the whole of the eastern part of Libya called Cyrenaica fell into British hands.

How was this effected?

Wavell's victories—remarkable military victories they were with insignificant losses—have been won with the help of able generalship, brilliant staff work, far-sighted planning, combined strategy of British Navy, Royal Air Force and the land forces and the great fighting qualities of the rank and file.

This fascinating story may be briefly told—

LIBYA

Mussolini has complained that General Wavell forestalled Marshal Graziani by a few days. If that was so, it proves the British Wizard's power of intelligent anticipation of events. The British forces left the railhead at Mersa Matruh on December 7, marched into the desert with the utmost secrecy and took up positions the next Sunday in the desert unperceived by the enemy. In the initial operations the Indian troops played a most important and distinguished part when they took up the strongly held Italian camp near Nibeiwa which, with the help of British planes, they captured after a brilliant operation. The British forces made an encircling movement on the 10th. On the next day Sidi Barrani was attacked from the east, the south-east and the south and Great Britain gained its first victory in the Western Desert. Thirty-five thousand Italian prisoners were taken besides valuable war materials.

Fort Capuzzo was the next objective and with the complete mopping up of the Italians in the Sollum area the Italians were driven out of Egypt and the fighting on Libyan soil commenced. Bardia was the next objective and the siege lasted for about 20 days. There again the Royal Air Force and the British warships gave timely and effective help and on January 5th Bardia surrendered, the number of Italians killed and captured here being 44,868, while a large number of field guns, anti-aircraft guns, tanks and other materials were captured, making a goodly haul.

Tobruk, nearly 100 miles inside Libya, was next attacked, British armoured cars and tanks having been sent thereto even before the fall of Bardia. Tobruk fell on January 22 and 20,000 Italian prisoners were taken, including a Corps Commander, a Divisional Commander, two Generals and an Admiral. By this time Marshal Graziani had lost two-thirds of his effective strength in Libya.

BRITISH GAINS IN AFRICA TO DATE

Eastern part of Libya called Cyrenaica.

Hundred thousand square miles in Italian Somaliland.

A good portion of North-West Abyssinia.

Many strategical places in Eritrea.

Prisoners taken in the Libyan Campaign—1,40,000.

(This figure does not include thousands of Italian soldiers killed.)

Italian losses in Somaliland—21,000 dead or captured.

Guns captured in Libya—1,200.

Guns captured in Italian Somaliland—1,200.

Italian ships captured in Kismayu—Five totalling 28,000 tons.

Italian ships otherwise lost in Italian Somaliland—Five.

Italian planes lost in Africa—1,000.

Italian planes smashed in Eritrea—120.

(Besides, numerous Armoured Tanks, Armoured Field Guns, Anti-Aircraft Guns, Light Guns, Light Tanks, Transport Vehicles, Food, Oil and Stores of all kinds have been captured in these operations.)

A week after, Derna, a small fishing port, fell and then Apollonia, 40 miles west of Derna. Afterwards, the British troops entered Cirene which was Graziani's headquarters for the invasion of Egypt. From Cirene a lightning leap was made along two parallel roads to Benghazi, 130 miles away, and the British forces captured that important port three days later as a result of the brilliant double-thrust. General Wavell split his army in two after Tobruk had been captured. One part continued the westward drive along the

coastal road to Derna and Cirene and the other went inland through Mechelli, 90 miles from Tobruk. The operations were continued with the greatest secrecy, British armoured forces cutting the enemy's lines of communication south of Benghazi. Meanwhile, Australian troops brought off another of their lightning strokes for which they have become famous, while the Navy and the Air Force continued to bombard the port. Demoralized and outmanoeuvred, the Italians surrendered Benghazi without a fight, considering that discretion was the better part of valour.

Benghazi dominates the Central and Western Mediterranean. Its harbour is capable of accommodating large cruisers and transport vessels. It is about 360 miles from Malta.

Free French forces, marching north from Chad, have captured Kufra, 500 miles south of Benghazi. The Italians had an important aerodrome in this oasis.

ERITREA

What has been described as the most brilliant pursuit took place from Kassala to Keren in Eritrea. Mussolini's air force in East Africa has been practically wiped out. Bombers and fighters are now a wreck, a jumbled and twisted metal. One hundred and twenty of them have been smashed while the remaining have taken refuge in Massawa on the Red Sea coast. The first offensive of the British forces in Italy's East African Empire began with the recapture of Gallabat and the driving away of the Italians over the Abyssinian border towards Metemma on the 11th November 1940. Kassala in Eritrea was evacuated on the 18th January 1941. From this place to Agordat, 110 miles away, there was a headlong retreat by the Italian troops who were given no respite. The Italians were harried and fought rearguard actions in vain. Swift-moving mobile columns harried the retreating forces. The story has been told again and again but it is enough to record here that after the lightning marches and assaults characterized by skill and daring, Agordat fell to the British on the 1st February and the British Army found 1,000 enemy dead and took 500 Italians prisoner, besides capturing a large quantity of material. Barentu was taken the next day. Here again 450 Italians were taken prisoner besides large quantities of material. Indian troops, as in the "miraculous perfection of the battle of Sidi Barrani," played a great and glorious part in the swift and courageous operation. Sikh battalions, Rajputs, Garwhali and Baluchi troops, Punjabi units, Indian Engineers and Sappers and Miners distinguished themselves so well that General Wavell, in a special message, characterized their action as a magnificent performance. Keren, which is about 70 miles north-west from Asmara, is being attacked from the north, east and south and its fall would enable the British forces to march into Asmara and from there to Massawa, the Red Sea port.

ABYSSINIA

Thousands of square miles to the north-west of Lake Tana have already been freed from Italian control. It is apparent that Emperor Haile Selassie, with his former commander-in-chief, Ras Kassa, is conducting his operations with the help of British trained troops from somewhere in this region. Progress is being made along the road to Gondar. The Abyssinian Patriot forces have occupied the Italian garrison-post of Burye and are harassing the Italian column withdrawing towards Debra-Markos. In Western Abyssinia the British forces made a double thrust along the dusty camel tracts and through high elephant grass towards Asosa which has been captured. The Sudanese and East African troops have captured the Afodu escarpment. Advancing from the south, the Patriot Forces have captured Yavello, 70 miles north of Mega. British Forces advancing from the Italian Somaliland surprised the enemy at Daggahbur, 100 miles south of Jijiga and captured a large number of prisoners. The Imperial Forces are smashing their way towards the important centre of Harrar after capturing Jijiga. Abyssinia is therefore, being attacked from several points and the Royal Air Force is giving remarkable aid to the attacking forces. As many as 1,700 troops belonging to Italy have deserted. It is expected that the march to Addis Ababa will not be long delayed. Addis Ababa, which is of course surrounded by an elaborate system of barbed wire defences, is now a vast concentration camp and it has been turned into an Italian city. All the Abyssinians have been removed to a specially built town several miles away. The British Government have made a solemn declaration that Great Britain has no territorial aims in Abyssinia but the conduct of military operations require military guidance and control in consultation with the Emperor and such guidance and control will be brought to an end as soon as hostilities cease; and assistance and guidance in economic and political matters will be subject to international arrangements at the conclusion of peace. The British Government welcome the reappearance of the independent Ethiopian State and recognise the Emperor's claim to the throne.

ITALIAN SOMALILAND

All the hinterland from the Juba river to Webbeshebeli in Italian Somaliland is in British hands. Thousands of prisoners have been taken in the operations in this country by the South African Expeditionary Force which captured the second largest port of Kismayu on the 15th February. West African troops captured Brava, 150 miles from Kismayu, on the 24th February and on the next day Mogadishu, the capital of Italian Somaliland, fell into the hands of the South African troops. On the 7th March Ferfer was occupied and on the 9th March the British Forces occupied the important post of Gabre Darre on the

(Continued on Page 12)

THUNDER OF THE PROPHETS

Dr. Goebbels has made another prophecy, this time to Spanish newspaper correspondents, as reported from Madrid, March 9.

"I affirm again that before the year is over Germany will finish the war. The attack on England will be carried out in an inexorable manner when the weather is sufficiently favourable."

Hitler was to have dictated his terms to the world from Buckingham Palace on August 15 last, but he has not succeeded in bombing out its present occupants. Here are some other Nazi prophecies that have gone astray:

Dunkirk

"It is now impossible for Great Britain to withdraw her troops." (*May 28, 1940.*)

"The British and French troops in the area in which they are encircled by the German forces are faced with annihilation." (*May 30, 1940.*)

Invasion of Britain

"The German artillery will smash everything to bits. London will become a heap of ruins and the poor wretches waiting for the Nazis will never see them. The remnants of the streets of London will remain quiet for ever." (*July 17, 1940.*)

Shipping

"The sinking and destroying of the whole of British shipping will become a matter of two months." (*August 7, 1940.*)

Starvation

"Britain's food stocks will last only a couple of weeks." (*July 19, 1940.*)

Collapse

"A complete collapse of the (British) war instrument is imminent this coming winter." (*August 9, 1940.*)

"British economy is on the verge of collapse." (*August 10, 1940.*)

"The collapse of England may come within sixty days." (*Attributed to U.S. Col. Knox, August 15, 1940.*)

Lord Haw-Haw himself provided the answer to these prophecies on October 12, 1940, when the 60 days had just elapsed. "On the whole," he said, "it is better to avoid predictions concerning the immediate future. They are much too easily shattered."

While their war machine threatens new frontiers, the Nazis mingle wild threats with protestations of peaceful intentions. Their campaign of words is intended not only to confuse, beguile and terrify smaller nations but to obtain information of British military intentions. The Axis has learned to fear the silence of Wavell.

The bait is refused. Britain makes preparations, not prophecies.

CAMPAIGN IN NORTH AND EAST AFRICA—(*Continued from Page* 11)

main Mogadishu-Harrar road. The Italian forces have split into two parts and are retreating northwards by divergent lines. The British Navy's co-operation in the operations in the Italian Somaliland has been most useful and it is due to its work that many Italian ships have been either captured or have been forced to scuttle themselves. All the ports and practically all the habitable coastline of Italy's "farthest and dearest colony" has thus passed into British hands, and operations are still continuing.

With an ever dwindling force and with no hope of reinforcements, Italians in Eritrea, Abyssinia and Somaliland are in a precarious position.

FLASHES FROM AFRICA

Here are a few striking examples of the amazing contradictions which Italian Radio broadcasts have been indulging in with regard to the African campaign :—

"The defence of Bardia is the defence of Libya and of Fascism"—Rome Radio, December 21.

"Bardia is neither a city nor a fortress—simply a sparsely inhabited place on the road to the frontier"—Rome Radio, January 4.

"Bardia is a terrible warning. Woe to the heedless"—Ansaldo's broadcast from Rome, January 5.

The fall of Benghazi, capital of Cyrenaica, due to a brilliant double-thrust by the Army of the Nile has astonished the world.

Last December, when General Wavell's campaign opened with the capture of Sidi Barrani, the German paper *Frankfurter Zeitung* dismissed this as "not a decisive action", and added: "Before using the word 'decisive' the British would have to advance as far as Benghazi; securing the air base for an attack on Italy itself."

Libya is "a most important strategic point" according to Mussolini (February 23) who has lost the better part of it.

"Kassala is the key to the Sudan. The occupation of this sensitive part of the Sudan is regarded as a fatal blow to England", said Rome Radio in Arabic on July 6, 1940, when Kassala was captured by the Italians following the withdrawal of the British garrison.

"Kassala was well outside our frontier. Its sole purpose was that of an outpost and observation post", said Rome Radio in Italian on January 21, 1941, when Kassala was retaken by the British.

MISLEADING STATEMENTS IN ENEMY BROADCASTS

BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH

Explaining Lofoten

The British raid on the Lofoten Islands on March 4 seems to have upset Dr. Goebbels as much as it delighted the islanders, as the broadcasts in the week ending 9th March clearly show. During the subsequent three days, the Nazi radio has been working hard in an attempt to explain just why the Germans were caught napping in this remote but important corner of Hitler's northern battle-front.

On March 5, Berlin said that the British had " attempted to take possession of unfortified islands off Northern Norway ". The primary object of the raid, as all the world knows, was not to take possession of the islands, but to put out of action the fish-oil installations which had been a valuable source of supply to the German armament machine—and this object was successfully achieved. Moreover, if the islands were unfortified, how was it that seven German naval men (including an officer) were killed, and some 215 sailors and technicians captured?

" After a short stay " went on Berlin the same day, " the enemy left at full speed in order to escape German counter-measures ". All reports of the raid testify to the unhurried smoothness with which it was carried out, while the only " German counter-measures " attempted while the British were at hand seems to have been the appearance of a bomber—which made off as soon as the warships opened fire. Once the British had left, however, German counter-measures included the shooting of a Norwegian civilian for " obstinacy " and the burning to the ground of the homes of the 300 Norwegian patriots who, at their own request, had been taken to Britain.

The Long and the Short of it

While on March 5, Berlin referred to " a short bombardment, which destroyed only a number of Norwegian fishing-vessels," the following day the Nazi radio said that " the British warships even continued their bombardment long after it was evident that the hail of shells was destroying the peaceful and defenceless Norwegian villages. The truth is that the bombardment—long or short—sank nine German merchant ships (including one of 10,000 tons), one Norwegian ship under Nazi control, and a German armed trawler, a total of 18,000 tons.

Finally, on March 7, after declaring that the attack was carried out by " astonishingly strong forces " which (somewhat paradoxically) revealed " Britain's growing weakness ", Berlin sums up the raid as " an attempt to terrorize the Norwegian people ". The Norwegian people on the islands, it will be recalled, were so terrified that they put on their Sunday clothes to welcome the raiders, while British acts of terrorization included the distribution of food, soap, and other comforts, to the islanders—who have been systematically robbed of these commodities ever since the German invasion of Norway.

Side-Lights on Bulgaria

Berlin on March 4 quoted the Nazi paper, *Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, as saying that the German occupation of Bulgaria represents the " positive side " of the Three-Power Pact, whereas " the negative side can easily be deduced from Greece's fate ". Since " Greece's fate " has so far included the expulsion of the last Italian invader from Greek soil, the capture of many important positions in Albania with a loss of 122,000 Italians killed, wounded and missing, and the destruction of at least 200 Italian warplanes, the results from the Axis point of view can certainly be described as " negative ".

Another Nazi paper, *Frankfurter Zeitung*, is made responsible for the opinion that Bulgaria's adherence to the Axis might be regarded as an indication of the failure of General' Wavell's offensive. This will doubtless be a great comfort to the Italians, who up to the present may have been inclined to regard General Wavell's offensive as anything but a failure.

Debunking a Classic

The latest weekly shipping losses (60,864 tons) published by the Admiralty finally dispose of Goebbels' claim, now almost a classic, to have destroyed 14 ships in convoy off the Azores last month. It is now known that out of 19 ships attacked, 12 have arrived safe in port. Of the remaining 7, one was torpedoed 12 days later and the other 6 were sunk by the raider. The Germans claimed to have sunk 14, rather more than twice the actual total. Later, put wise by the Admiralty, they reduced their claims to 8.

The torpedoed ship has been counted by the Germans twice over—in the convoy and in the next week's losses—and this helps to explain their claim to have sunk 75,000 tons in the week ending February 23 instead of the true figure of 60,000 tons. But it does not explain why Hitler's claim (in his speech on February 24) that 215,000 tons had been sunk in two days has been completely left out of account. Evidently the German Admiralty relies as little on Hitler's figures as Hitler relies upon his Italian allies.

British Shipping and Japan

On March 5, the German wireless quoted 'a report from Osaka ' to the effect that " the wellknown P. & O. Line, the last British line to ply between Japan and Bombay, has suspended its sailings because of a lack of tonnage ".